GUIDE TO THE AV7 BURUSHO FILE

[This file is concerned with the Burusho, who are the inhabitants of Hunza and Nagir, two small Burushaski-speaking states in the northeasternmost part of Pakistan. They speak an isolated language which has not as yet been traced to any major linguistic stock. Since almost nothing has been written about Nagir, the file is basically on Hunza (the original of "Shangri-La"). Agriculture is the main occupation, with the major crops being wheat, barley, millet, potatoes, buckwheat and pulses. After grains and greens, the essential items of Hunza diet are apricots and mulberries. Some herding is done, mainly for milk and wool. Hunza is a stratified society, with a hereditary ruler, called the Tham or Mir and supposedly descended from Alexander the Great, with a total of six classes. The people of Hunza are Mohammedans of the Ismaili sect, while those of Nagir are members of the Shia sect. Contact with the outside world is quite limited, particularly since Pakistan has barred most travelers from the area because of its closeness to the Tibetan and Kashmir borders.

There are eight sources in the Burusho file, all of them in English. 1: Lorimer is a brief general source on the Kingdom of Hunza which concentrates on agricultural methods, food crops and the food supply. 2: Lorimer is a popular general account of Burusho ethnography which covers the main aspects of the culture. 3: Lorimer, 4: Lorimer and 5: Lorimer are parts of a three-volume linguistic work on the Burushaski language. 3: Lorimer contains an introduction and grammar, 4: Lorimer contains texts and translations, and 5: Lorimer contains vocabularies and an index. 6: O'Leary is a cultural summary based on the first five sources in the file. 7: Tobe, by an organic

gardener, contains a good deal of information on flora, agriculture, diet and general health conditions. 8: Clark is a study of the general health level of the Hunzukuts (inhabitants of Hunza) and debunks the stories of them living to the age of 120 to 140 years. In general the Burusho file is adequate for comparative purposes, although the information is skimpy in many categories. Linguistic data are relatively full and there is much folklore. No special marking decisions were made for the file, which was processed between 1955 and 1968.]